Williamson County Sheriff's Office

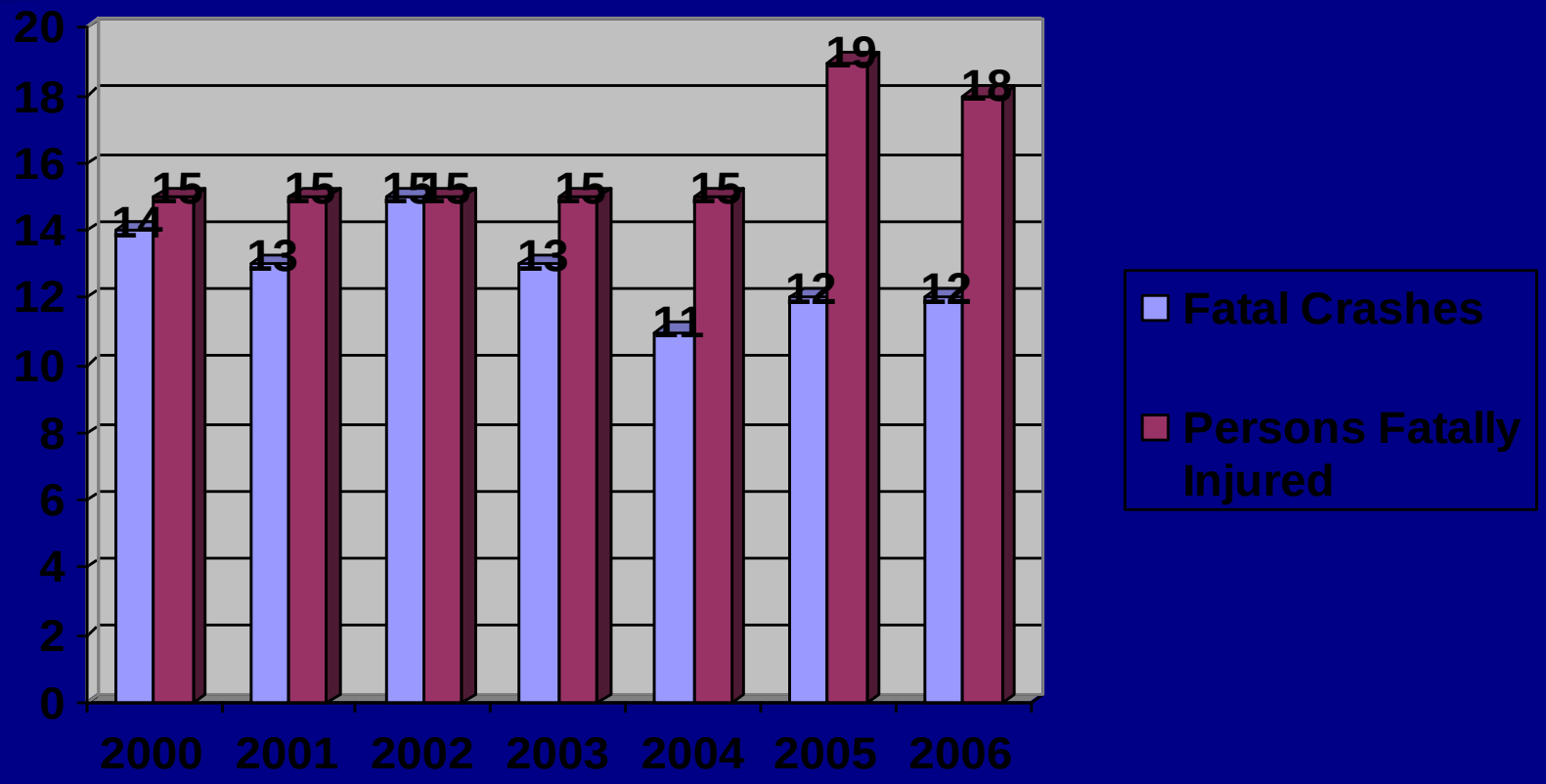
Integrated Highway Safety Plan

Lt. Bob McCurdy

Williamson County

Williamson County has a patrol area of 434 square miles, 640 miles of unincorporated local roads in its jurisdiction, and has a population of 63,094 of which 25,000 is unincorporated.

Williamson County Fatalities



Enforcement Effectiveness

Year	DUI Arrests	Fatalities
2002	44	15
2003	68	15
2004	148	16
2005	258	18
2006	298	19
2007	216	10

Previous Efforts

- Responses to a single incident.
- Engineering Projects without adequate crash data.
- Assuming what the problem is.
- Enforcement without goals.

Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan for Local Agencies

- 4 E Approach to making local roads safer
  - Engineering
  - Education
  - Enforcement
  - Emergency Services

Engineering

- Improve quality of crash data
- Improve lines of communication between Law Enforcement and Engineering (County Engineer, IDOT)
- Local Personnel trained in Road Safety Assessments
- Identify locations for RSAs

What is an RSA?

An **RSA** (Road Safety Assessment) is a formal examination of the safety performance of a roadway or a proposed project by an independent, multi-disciplinary team.

What is an RSA?

- Formal: Procedures & Documentation
- Safety Performance: Focus on Safety
- Independent: No previous experience with assessed road
- RSA Team: General experience and specialists

An RSA also….

- Considers the safety of all road users.
- May proactively consider mitigation measures.
- Considers interactions at the borders or limits of the project.
- Examines the interaction of project elements.

What Can We Bring to the Process?

Human Element

- What was the driver thinking?
- Trends (booze cruising, drag racing, text messaging).
- Past experience at similar locations.
- Common Sense approach.
- We've been to the scene of 1000s of crashes.

Educational Efforts

- Billboards
- Public Service Announcements
- School Programs
- Utilize Earned Media Opportunities
- Child Safety Seat Events

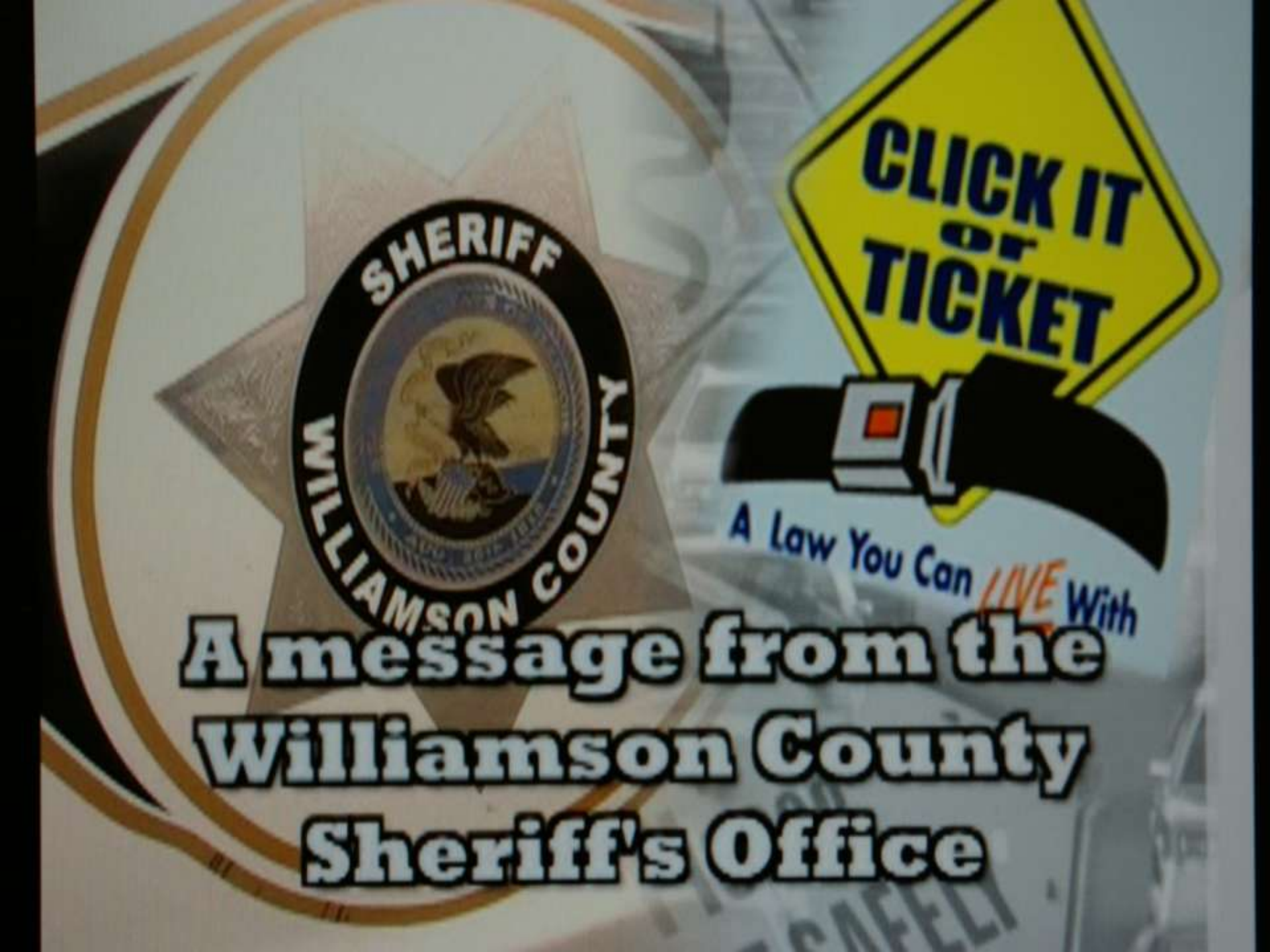
A Memorial
to Drinking
& Driving
Williamson County Sheriff's Office
Children's
$39.00
Everyday Price
MARION EYE CENTERS
LAMAR

ZERO
TOLERANCE
FOR
IMPAIRED
DRIVING
Illinois Department of Transportation
Williamson County Sheriff's Office
LAMAR

"IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN TO ME"

1,260 car crash victims said the same thing last year!

SLOW
DOWN
& LIVE
Williamson County Sheriff's Office
LAMAR


SHERIFF
WILLIAMSON COUNTY
CLICK IT
or
TICKET
A Law You Can LIVE With
A message from the
Williamson County
Sheriff's Office

Education Budget

Billboards	$3000
PSAs	$5000
Public Events	$1500
School Presentations	$2000
Misc.	$ 500
Total	$12,000

Enforcement

- Roadside Safety Checks
- Saturation Patrols
- Speed Details
- Seatbelt Check Points

SEAT BELT
ENFORCEMENT
ZONE

Road Side Safety Checks

- Utilized as a Enforcement and Education Tool
- Deterrence is the most promising tool for near-term success
- High Visibility
- Studies have shown a 10 to 20 percent reduction in DUI Crashes if conducted properly

Road Side Safety Checks

- A Saturation Patrol may make contact with 20 to 30 vehicles during 5 hour shift

- A Road Side Safety Check could come into contact with 500 vehicles during the same time period, and *RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS*

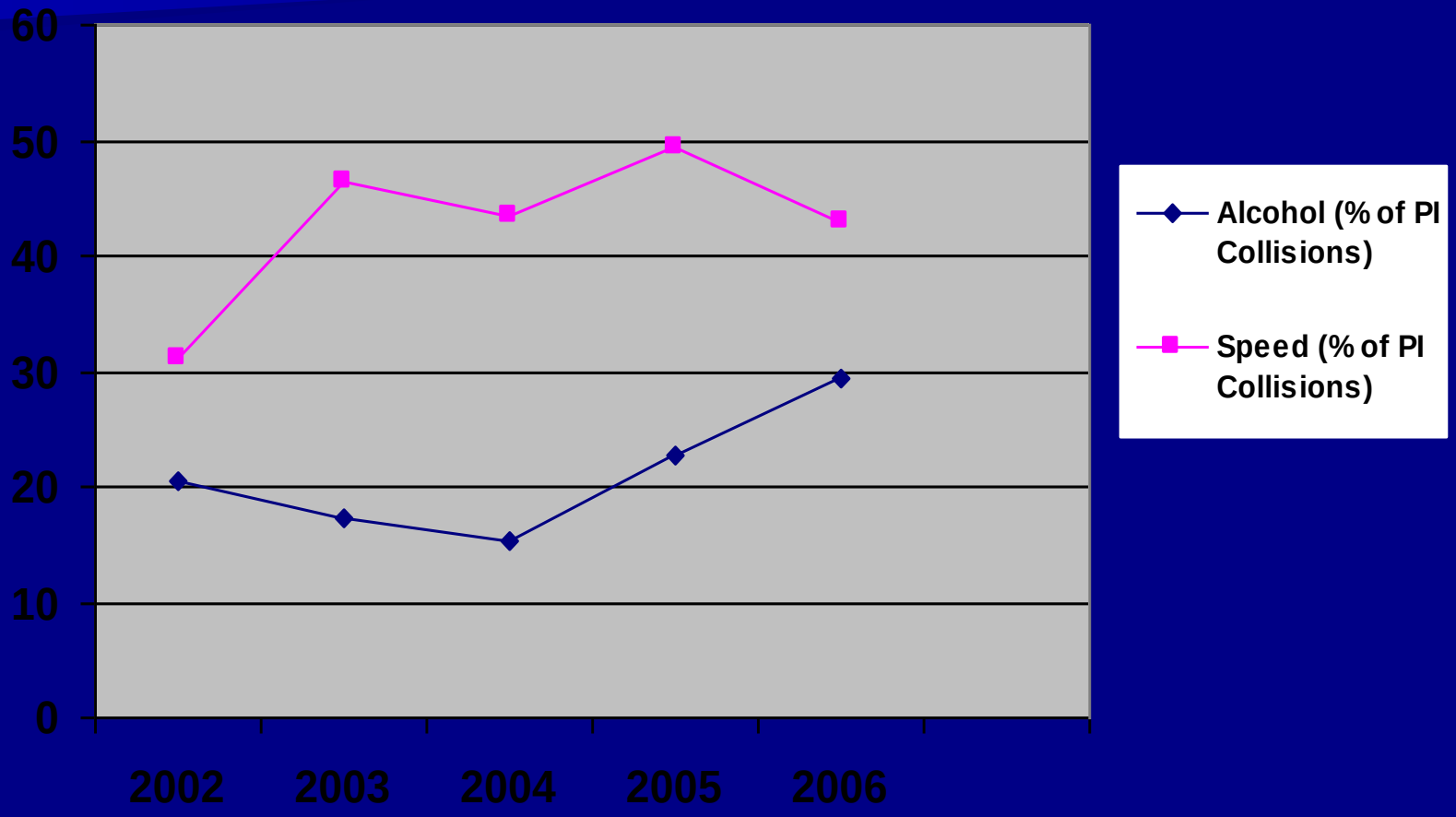
STOP
POLICE
CHECK
POINT

WYE SUPPLY
SHERIFF

Enforcement Focus

- Goal is to reduce crashes
  - Excessive Speed
  - Occupant Restraint
  - Impaired Driving

Crash Data
Contributory Causes



Crash Data (cont.)

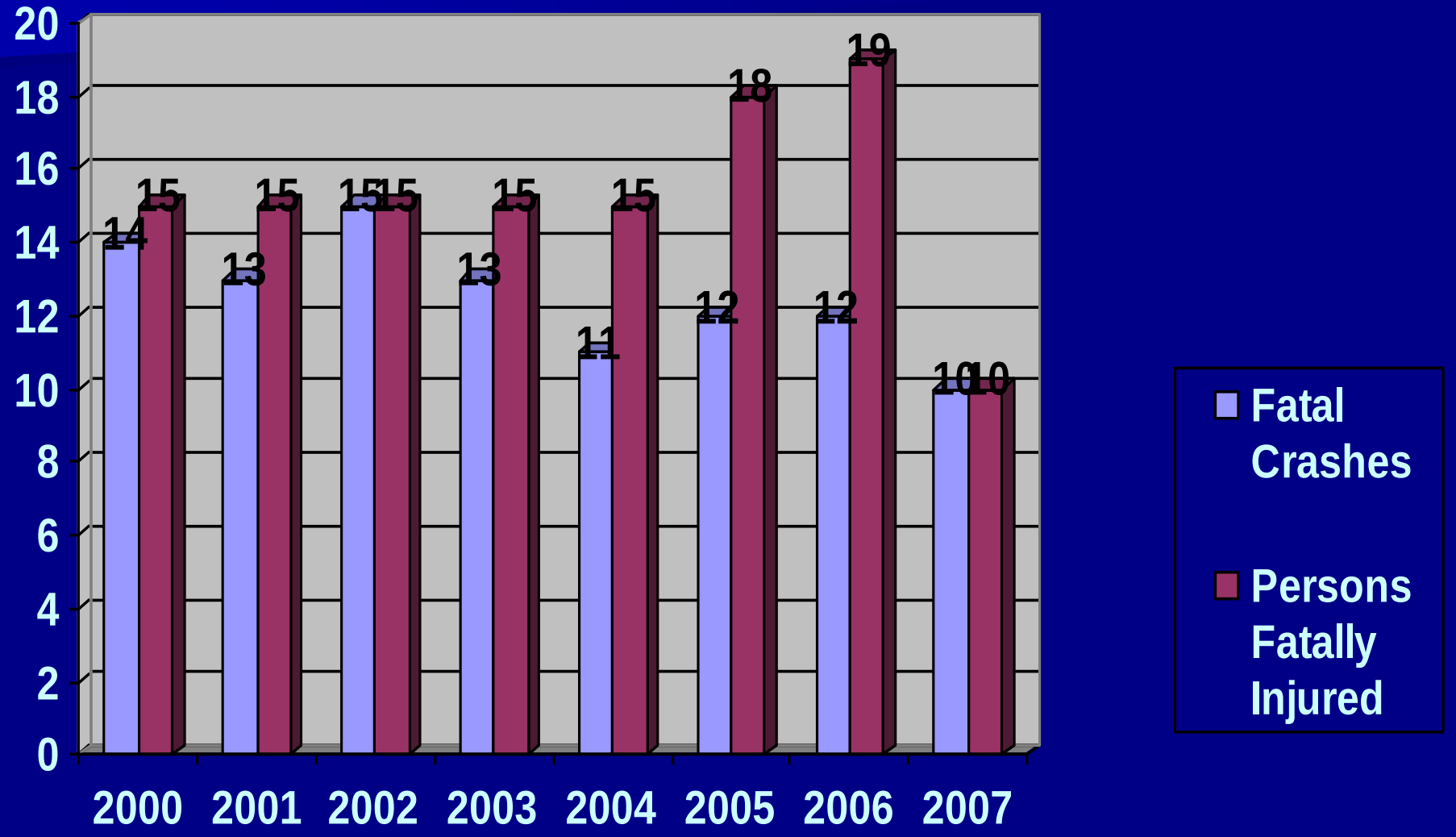
- 42.9% of all personal injury and fatal crashes were speed related.
- 29.3% of all personal injury and fatal crashes were alcohol related.

Williamson County Enforcement Effectiveness

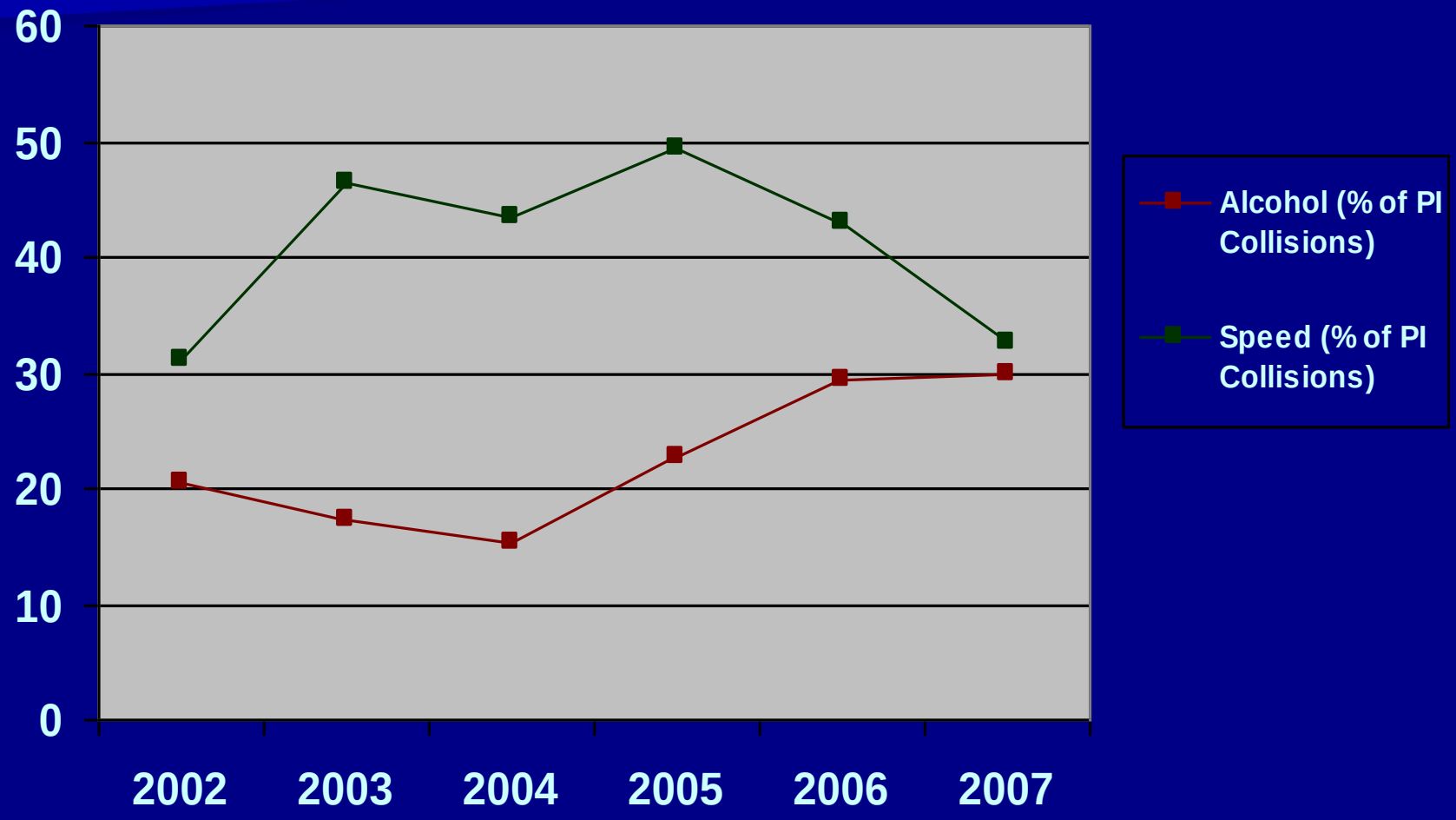
Year	DUI Arrests	Occupant Protection	Speed	Fatalities
2002	44	54	300	15
2003	68	94	254	15
2004	148	136	219	16
2005	258	207	361	18
2006	298	282	875	19
2007*	216	561	2840	10

*Integrated Approach Fully Implemented

Fatal Crashes Updated



Contributing Factors Updated



Emergency Services

- Coordinate with EMS to ensure better response times and understanding of the situation
- Understand the needs and functions of the various branches of Emergency Services

Where Do We Go From Here?

- Continued participation in IDOT Division of Traffic Safety Grant Programs.
- Fund and keep dedicated Traffic Safety Unit.
- Improve the quality of crash data.

Where Do We Go From Here?

- Identify locations for RSAs and train local personnel.
- Explore changing enforcement tactics.
- Coordinate your efforts with other agencies.